

SS020: Mangroves for a Resilient Future in the Western Indian Ocean: Advancing Science, Policy and Regional Collaboration

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The Western Indian Ocean Mangrove Network (WIOMN) is organizing a special session under the theme “Mangroves for a Resilient Future in the Western Indian Ocean: Advancing Science, Policy and Regional Collaboration” that will bring together scientific researchers, policy makers and practitioners to strengthen and drive regional collaboration in mangrove conservation, restoration, and sustainable use. A key highlight of the session is the launch of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Regional Mangrove Action Plan (RMAP), a 25-year framework to guide sustainable mangrove governance across the region. The session will also host the WIOMN General Assembly, where members will review the Network’s 2022–2025 performance, adopt the new Five-Year Strategic Plan (2025–2030), and renew the Network leadership. Key presentations and discussions will feature showcasing best practices and strengthening science-policy-practice linkages. With an expected attendance of more than 100 participants, the session will demonstrate the role of WIOMN as a key platform for mangrove sustainability across the region. Expected outcomes include enhanced WIOMN’s visibility, and identify new opportunities for joint research, investment, and coordinated action for a sustainable and resilient future of mangroves in the WIO.